



MEDIA RELEASE

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C21 Canada Convenes National Education Leaders in Vancouver for CEO Academy Summit on “Assessment in an AI World”

Launch of National AI Network Cluster, New AI Micro-Credential, and Expansion of AI Use Case Initiative Signal Canada’s Global Leadership in AI and Education

VANCOUVER, BC – May 6, 2026 – C21 Canada, a national not-for-profit, will welcome education leaders from across the country to the **C21 CEO Academy Summit**, taking place **May 7–8, 2026, in North Vancouver**, hosted in partnership with **West Vancouver Schools, Surrey Schools**, and the **North Vancouver School District**.

Bringing together Directors of Education, Superintendents, CIOs, and system leaders, this year’s Summit is anchored in the theme: **“Assessment in an AI World”**

The Summit represents a pivotal moment in Canada’s education transformation journey, as leaders gather to explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping assessment practices and creating unique possibilities for teaching and learning while reinforcing **human-led intelligence, ethics, and student-centred design**.

Key National Announcements & Highlights

Launch of the C21 Canada National AI Network Cluster

At the Summit, C21 Canada will officially launch the **National AI Network Cluster**, connecting regional initiatives, including the recently announced **Atlantic Region AI Education Cluster**, into a **cohesive pan-Canadian network**.

This network will:

- Accelerate **AI innovation and use case scaling** across provinces
- Support the **AI Information Highway Teacher PD Series**
- Enable **interprovincial collaboration and shared learning**
- Advance the **C21 AI Task Force’s 21 Calls to Action**

“The CEO Academy Summit provides the ideal platform to align leadership across Canada at a critical moment in education,” said **Robert Martellacci**.

“The launch of the National AI Network Cluster reflects our commitment to connecting innovation coast to coast and ensuring every learner benefits from a human-centered AI future.”

C21 Dell Technologies AI Use Case Project – Round 3

C21 Canada will also highlight the completion of **Round 3 of the C21 Dell Technologies AI Use Case Project**, now expanded to include both **K–12 and post-secondary institutions**.

This **globally leading initiative** showcases grassroots problems with AI solutions - from classroom innovation to system transformation, creating a growing national repository of **ethical, scalable AI practices** and reinforcing Canada's leadership on the global stage.

Introducing a Student AI Micro-Credential

C21 Canada will preview a new **Student AI Micro-Credential**, inspired by insights from a **KPMG global study** highlighting the urgent need for AI literacy and future-ready competencies.

The micro-credential will:

- Support student development in **AI literacy, ethics, and application**
- Align with the **7Cs Framework for 21st Century Learning**
- Provide a **scalable national model** for recognizing AI competencies

“Preparing students for an AI-enabled future requires the intentional design of learner experiences that reflect global competencies,” said **Karen Yamada**.
“This micro-credential represents an important step in empowering learners across Canada.”

An Immersive, Human-Centered Leadership Experience

The CEO Academy Summit is intentionally designed as a **face-to-face, experiential learning environment**, emphasizing collaboration, inquiry, and leadership reflection.

Highlights include:

- **Outdoor experiential learning** along the Vancouver North Shore and Squamish region
- Engage with the **Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation**
- Showcase insights from **AI Use Cases from C21 member districts**
- Deepen dialogue on **assessment, equity, and system transformation**

“As a founding CEO Academy member and co-host, it’s exciting to welcome colleagues from across Canada to the West Coast,” said **Chris Kennedy**. *“This Summit creates a unique space to connect leadership, innovation, and inquiry, ensuring that AI supports deep learning, equity, and meaningful impact for every student.”*

Advancing a National and Global Vision

The Summit builds on the momentum of the **C21 Canada AI Task Force Report**, which calls for:

A continuum of ethical, sustainable Artificial Intelligence led by the social imperatives of Human Intelligence.

As Canada continues to lead globally in AI innovation, C21 Canada is ensuring that education systems remain **human-centered, inclusive, and future-ready**.

About the C21 CEO Academy

The **C21 CEO Academy** is a national leadership network of Directors of Education, Superintendents, and system leaders committed to advancing innovation in K–12 education. Through **face-to-face, experiential learning and inquiry-based collaboration**, the CEO Academy provides a trusted space for leaders to explore emerging challenges, share practices, and co-create solutions that shape the future of learning in Canada and beyond.

About C21 Canada

C21 Canada is a national, non-profit organization and network of education leaders dedicated to transforming teaching and learning through the **7Cs Framework for 21st Century Learning**. Through strategic partnerships and national initiatives, C21 Canada champions innovation, equity, and excellence across K–12 education.

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